

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A keyboard device for key inputting by selecting any one of two functions ~~effected~~ which are performed by certain keys on a keyboard, wherein
a sensor detects a hand of a user or a proximity of said hand at a home position, and
said one of two functions ~~effected~~ which are performed by said certain keys is selected based on the result of the detection by said sensor.
2. (previously presented): A keyboard device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said certain keys comprise a ten-key section provided with numeric input function and cursor shift function.
3. (currently amended): A keyboard device for key inputting by selecting any one of two functions ~~effected~~ which are performed by certain keys on a keyboard, comprising:
a sensor for detecting a presence of a hand of a user at a home position;
a function switching key to select one of said two functions which are performed by said certain keys by pressing a key;
a sensor validating/invalidating switch to changeover the validation/invalidation of the detection result of said sensor; and

a control section for selecting said function according to the detection result of said sensor when said sensor validating/invalidating switch is validated, and by said function switching key when said validating/invalidating switch is invalidated.

4. (previously presented): A keyboard device as claimed in claim 3, wherein said certain keys comprise a ten-key section provided with numeric input function and cursor shift function.

5. (currently amended): A keyboard device for key inputting by selecting any one of two functions ~~effected~~ which are performed by certain keys on a keyboard, comprising:

a function switching key to changeover the function to be selected each time it is pressed down;

a sensor, which is active (ON state) when hands of a user are present at a home position and inactive (OFF state) when they are not at the home position; and

a control section for monitoring respective events of press-down of said function switching key, transitions from ON state to OFF state of said sensor and from OFF state to ON state of said sensor, and selecting alternatively said two functions, each time that one of the events occurs.

6. (previously presented): A keyboard device as claimed in claim 5, wherein said certain keys comprise a ten-key section provided with numeric input function and cursor shift function.

7. (previously presented): A keyboard device, comprising:
a first group of keys provided on a keyboard;
a sensor for detecting the presence of hands of a user at a home position of said first group of keys;
a second group of keys provided on a side opposite to said first group of keys taking said sensor as a border; and
a control section for monitoring a detection result of said sensor and disabling an input by said second group of keys when said sensor detects hands.

8. (original): A keyboard device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said second group of keys includes at least one of a group of numeric input keys and a group of cursor shift keys.

9. (canceled).

10. (canceled).

11. (canceled).

12. (previously presented): A method of key input function selection, comprising:
detecting by a sensor a presence of one of a user's hand and a proximity of said hand at a home position of a keyboard device; and
selecting a function of a certain key coupled to said keyboard based on said detecting by said sensor.

13. (previously presented): The method of claim 12, wherein said certain key is a key with a numeric input function and a cursor shift function.